

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 20, 2008. Claims 8, 10, 18, 20, 22 and 38 to 46 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 8, 18 and 22 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 22 were objected to for an informality that has been attended to by cancellation of the language in question. Thus, the objections are believed to be obviated.

Claims 8, 18, 22, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,219,706 (Fan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,366 (Kayashima), Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under § 103(a) over Fan in view of Kayashima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,646,872 (Yonenaga), and Claims 40, 43 and 46 were rejected under § 103(a) over Fan in view Kayashima and further in view of allegedly well known art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention is directed to a printer that controls the execution of requested data processes. In the invention, the printer stores a connection limitation table of connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other. When a request that includes a kind of data process to be executed is received from a first computer, the printer allocates a port for the requested process, notifies the first computer of a port number for the allocated port, and forms connection limitation information based on discrimination information (e.g., an IP

address) of the first computer and the port number of the allocated port, and registers the formed connection limitation information in the connection limitation table. Then, when data addressed to the allocated port is received from an external apparatus, the printer controls whether or not to execute the process based on the formed and registered connection limitation information. Specifically, if the external apparatus is the first computer, the printer controls to execute the requested process, but if the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer, the printer controls to not execute the requested data process.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 8 is directed to a printing apparatus which communicates with a computer via a network, the printing apparatus comprising a storage unit that stores therein a connection limitation table including connection limitation information in which discrimination information of a computer and a port number are associated with each other, a reception unit that receives a request transmitted from a first computer via the network, wherein the request includes a kind of data process as a requested data process to be executed, an allocating unit that newly allocates a port for the requested data process included in the request received by the reception unit and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer, a port number notifying unit that notifies the first computer of a port number of the port allocated by the allocating unit, a registration unit that associates discrimination information of the first computer and the port number of the port allocated by the allocating unit to form connection limitation information, and registers the formed connection limitation information into the connection limitation table stored in the storage

unit, a data receiving unit that receives data addressed to the port allocated by the allocating unit, from an external apparatus, and a control unit that controls, based on the formed connection limitation information registered by the registration unit, to execute the requested data process based on the data received by the data receiving unit in a case where the external apparatus is the first computer, and not to execute the requested data process based on the data received by the data receiving unit in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

Claims 18 and 22 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 8.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 8, 18 and 22, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a printer i) newly allocating a port for a requested data process included in a request received from a first computer and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer, ii) associating discrimination information of the first computer and a port number of the allocated port to form connection limitation information, and registering the formed connection limitation information into a connection limitation table stored in a storage unit of the printer, and iii) controlling, based on the formed/registered connection limitation information, to execute the requested data process based on received data in a case where an external apparatus transmitting the received data is the first computer, and not to execute the requested data process based on the received data in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

Fan is seen to disclose that, if a host PC 6 sends a packet to an external PC 12, the host PC 6 updates an access list by forming an SIS and permits accessing from the PC 12. Namely, the host PC 6 dynamically forms the SIS. Further, as disclosed in Fig. 9 of Fan, the SIS includes information indicating a port number. However, this port number does not indicate a port which has not been allocated to any computer and is newly allocated, but indicates a port which is commonly used by various computers mutually communicating with others via a firewall. Accordingly, Fan does not allocate a port not yet allocated to any computer and newly allocated, according to a request from a computer.

Further, Fan is seen to disclose (step 408 of Fig. 7, col. 9, lines 32-39) that an unauthenticated packet is dropped. However, this operation merely judges whether a computer which transmitted a packet has been registered in an access list. Namely, this operation does not control to permit the computer which sent a request but inhibit the computer other than the computer which sent the request. This is apparent from the fact that the port in a firewall is shared by plural computers and that a return packet from the computer other than the computer which sent the packet (i.e., the computer being the destination of the packet) is processed.

Thus, Fan is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of a printer i) newly allocating a port for a requested data process included in a request received from a first computer and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer, ii) associating discrimination information of the first computer and a port number of the allocated port to form connection limitation information, and registering the formed connection limitation information into a connection limitation table stored in a

storage unit of the printer, and iii) controlling, based on the formed/registered connection limitation information, to execute the requested data process based on received data in a case where a external apparatus transmitting the received data is the first computer, and not to execute the requested data process based on the received data in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

Kayashima is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Fan, would have resulted in the present invention. In this regard, Kayashima is seen to disclose a communications system in which a server notifies a client of its own communication address and port number, the client notifies an adjacent proxy server of its own communication address and port number, as well as the address and port number of the server. The first proxy server in turn notifies another adjacent proxy server of the its own communication address and server side port number, as well as the address and port number of the server. The process continues in this manner until a terminal proxy server is reached. Once all computers acquire a communication address and port number of each adjacent computer, a connectionless communication can be commenced. However, Kayashima is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Fan, would have resulted in the features of a printer i) newly allocating a port for a requested data process included in a request received from a first computer and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer, ii) associating discrimination information of the first computer and a port number of the allocated port to form connection limitation information, and registering the formed connection limitation information into a connection limitation table stored in a storage unit of the printer, and iii)

controlling, based on the formed/registered connection limitation information, to execute the requested data process based on received data in a case where an external apparatus transmitting the received data is the first computer, and not to execute the requested data process based on the received data in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

Yonenaga is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Fan and/or Kayashima, would have resulted in the features of a printer i) newly allocating a port for a requested data process included in a request received from a first computer and not allocated to external computers other than the first computer, to the first computer, ii) associating discrimination information of the first computer and a port number of the allocated port to form connection limitation information, and registering the formed connection limitation information into a connection limitation table stored in a storage unit of the printer, and iii) controlling, based on the formed/registered connection limitation information, to execute the requested data process based on received data in a case where an external apparatus transmitting the received data is the first computer, and not to execute the requested data process based on the received data in a case where the external apparatus is an apparatus other than the first computer.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 8, 18 and 22, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCIS_WS 2501486v1